

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

50X1-HUM

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Horni Slavkov Mining

DATE DISTR.

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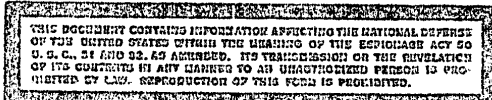
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1. Prokop I and Prokop II are enclosed by a fenced-in compound which also contains a convicts' camp. The mine Barbara is situated at a distance of three-quarters of a mile, and the Losnice mine at a distance of about two miles, from Prokop II.

2. Prokop I

This pit has only one underground level, located at a depth of 130 feet. At present, work is at a standstill, although one pumping station is in continuous operation. There are two air-shafts which have deliberately been blocked. An underground passage connects the pit with the first underground level of Prokop II.

2. Prokop II

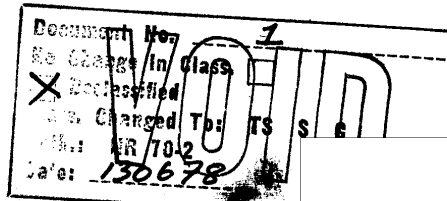
- a. Mining is proceeding on two underground levels, at depths of 140 feet and 260 feet respectively; a third level at a depth of 400 feet is under construction.
- b. At present, ore is being extracted mainly from the second level, at a rate of 32 to 35 mine-cars per shift. Work is carried out in three shifts: 0600 - 1400 hrs., 1400 - 2200 hrs., and 2200 - 0600 hrs. Each shift is composed of 40 to 42 convicts, 4 civilians, 2 professional miners (experts), one pyrotechnician, and one mine-master. Each shift is supervised by one or two Russian engineers. Out of this number of personnel, only 5 of the convicts work on the first level, and the remainder are employed on the second level. Explosives are stored on the first level, which is connected with the Prokop I mine by an underground passage.
- c. Mining installations are primitive. Access to all three levels is by ladders. Ore is brought along the corridors in mine-cars up to the pit shaft and hauled to surface by a hoist.
- d. Digging and removal of the ore is carried out solely by the convicts, except in cases where especially rich pockets are found; these are extracted by the

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Next Review Date: 2008



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

-2-

civilians and the professional miners (4 civilians and 2 miners to each shift). Work is directed by a geologist equipped with a Geiger counter which he carries strapped to his chest in a small wooden box. From the front of the box, a spike protrudes, which is used for probing the walls, the ceiling, and the floor of the corridors to detect the presence of active ore at any given spot. Ore deposits are then marked by white circles chalked on the rock.

- e. Dynamiting of deposits is carried out by the pyrotechnician, who is also in charge of the removal of the ore.
- f. There are rather few, but very rich, uranium-ore deposits, most of them concentrated in so-called enclaves or pockets. Whenever such a pocket is located by the geologist, the convicts are immediately called off, and the civilians and expert miners go into action. A sheet is laid out underneath the pocket, on which the broken-off fragments are accumulated, in order not to lose a single bit of the ore. After the pocket is cleared, the sheet is gathered and the ore filled into sacks which are immediately taken up to the storeroom and later shipped to the main stores at Horni Slavkov.

4. Barbora and Lesnice

Work in these pits is carried out by civilians who are assisted by convicts numbering about 300 to 320. Both mines are equipped with cage elevators. The mines are to be connected by an underground passage, of which only 35 yards remained unfinished on 1st July 1949.

5. Forced Labor

The forced labor camp at Horni Slavkov is a rectangle 40 yards wide and 330 yards long, surrounded by a barbed-wire fence. The camp is located within the compound enclosing the Prokop I and Prokop II mines, and this in turn is surrounded by a barbed-wire fence. The camp houses about 450 convicts, of whom approximately 130 are employed in the Prokop II mines, 300 to 320 in the Barbora and Lesnice mines, and 5 as assistants in the office of the geologists. The camp is guarded by a prisoners' guard of three commanded by Pytlik (fnu).

50X1-HUM

6. Security Precautions in the Prokop I and Prokop II Mining Compound

The compound enclosing the Prokop I and Prokop II mines is surrounded by a barbed wire fence and guarded by about 25 members of the SNB, of whom 12 are on permanent duty in the guard room. Two SNB men are stationed at each pit head, and eight on guard towers.

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